

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: CVIS UR CASC

SUBJ: USG REPRESENTATION LIST XV - STATUS REPORT

FOR EUR/SOV AND EUR

REF: MOSCOW 9373

1. PROGRESS TO DATE REMAINS EXTREMELY SLOW ON USG REPRESENTATION LIST NO. XV, WHICH WAS PRESENTED IN FIRST INSTANCE BY CHARGE TO FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV ON MAY 16. SUBSEQUENT PRESENTATION OF LIST, IN SLIGHTLY REVISED FORM, WAS MADE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN JUNE 8. OF 221 INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILY UNITS (TOTAL OF 657 PERSONS) ON REVISED LIST, ONLY 23, OR SLIGHTLY OVER 10 PERCENT, HAVE RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION AS OF AUGUST 13.

2. SUCH REPRESENTATION LISTS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TRADITIONALLY BY USG TO REPRESENTATIVES OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON HIGH LEVEL. LIST CONSISTS OF RESIDENTS OF USSR WHO ARE SEEKING EXIT PERMISSION FROM SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOR REUNIFICATION WITH CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS IN US; IN SOME CASES (AT LEAST SEVEN ON MOST RECENT LIST--SEE REFTEL), INDIVIDUALS ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT USSR WHO ARE SEEKING REPATRIATION TO US. LIST GENERALLY HAS BEEN PRESENTED ON ANNUAL BASIS IN RECENT YEARS, BUT MORE FREQUENTLY

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WHEN ADDITIONAL HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. FOR

EXAMPLE, REPRESENTATION LIST XIII WAS PRESENTED TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN IN TWO INSTALLMENTS BY THE SECRETARY AND BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HILLENBRAND IN APRIL-MAY 1972 (STATE 112740 OF JUNE 22, 1972) AND REP. LIST XIV WAS PRESENTED IN SEPTEMBER 1972 IN CONNECTION WITH SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AT 27TH UNGA.

3. FAILURE OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO DATE IN PERMITTING REUNIFICATION OF THESE DIVIDED US-SOVIET FAMILIES IS INCONSISTENT WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN OTHER AREAS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. LACK OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON THIS MOST HUMAN FRONT IS PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTING IN VIEW OF FACT THAT USG REPRESENTATION LIST IS OF VERY MODEST PROPORTIONS AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP OF US SPONSOR TO SOVIET APPLICANT FOR EXIT PERMISSION IS EXTREMELY CLOSE IN VIRTUALLY EVERY CASE ON LIST. MOST CASES INVOLVE ALREADY LONG-STANDING SEPARATION OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, OR SPOUSES. LIST INCLUDES SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN APPLYING FOR OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS TO REJOIN IN US PARENTS OR SPOUSES FROM WHOM THEY WERE SEPARATED DURING TRAUMA OF WORLD WAR II AND GERMAN OCCUPATION. MORE RECENT DIFFICULTIES IN MARRIAGE CASES CONCERN THREE SOVIET SPOUSES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS (FELDSTEIN, GHARIBIAN AND FLOYD), WHO HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED OVER SEVERAL MONTHS IN ATTEMPTS JOIN PARTNER IN US, AS WELL AS ONE CASE IN WHICH SOVIET FIANCÉE OF AMERICAN CITIZEN KRAWCHUK WAS ARRESTED ON "SUSPICION OF MURDER" JUST BEFORE LEGALLY-REGISTERED MARRIAGE WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN MOSCOW (MOSCOW 9537). (NOTE: FLOYD AND KRAWCHUK CASES NOT ON PRESENT LIST.)

4. THERE IS STRONG CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN LARGE NUMBER OF THESE CASES. GIVEN THE ATTENTION FOCUSED NOW ON QUESTION OF EMIGRATION FROM USSR, SOVIET COOPERATION IN REUNITING THESE FAMILIES WOULD PRODUCE SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS BENEFITS FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THIS ISSUE ON MOSCOW FRONT ON BOTH CHARGE AND CONSULAR LEVELS, WE CONSIDER THAT ADDITIONAL HIGH-LEVEL WASHINGTON APPROACH TO SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN ADDING THIS AREA TO THE LIST OF IMPROVEMENTS IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS. EXEMPT DUBS

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